(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Seagrams cashes in policy confusion buys distillery" appearing in the Observer of Business and Polities. New Delhi. dated 25th December. 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s. Seagrams Mfg. Pvt. Limited bought out Oceanic Distilleries Pvt. Ltd without the approval of the Central Government and signed the MoU with OPDL in August, 1996; and

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The facts mentioned in the News Item have come to the notice of Government. It is for the concerned and relevant authorities to ascertain the facts for appropriate action.

News-items captioned "India is 3rd on EU's trade priority"

2453. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India. dated the 2nd March, 2000 captioned "India is 3rd on EU's trade priority".

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) and (c) Mr. Pascal Lamy. Trade Commissioner of the European Commission visited India during 2-8. 2000. During his meeting with the Minister of Commerce & Industry on 7th March. 2000, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral matters such as market access for Indian products in the EU market. anti-dumping/anti-subsidy measures instituted by EC and multilateral trade issues.

Performance of Export Processing Zones

2454. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : (a) whether Government have received the performance of the Export Processing Zone.

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years ;

(c) whether Government propose to open new EPZ during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the places identified for the location of new EPZ ; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exports made from Export Processing Zones during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports from EPZs
1997-98	4817.30
1998-99	5252.48
1999-2000	6088.97 (Provisional)

(c) to (e) It was decided in 1992 not to set up any new EPZ under Government of India. However, Export Processing Zones can be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

Activities of Spices Board in A.P.

2455. SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the activities of the Spices Board in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether any steps have been take to explore new export markets for Andhra chillies by the Spices Board ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the unique flavour of Andhra chillies could be marketed abroad ;

(e) whether any marketing strategy has been evolved ; and

(f) the details of involvement of the Spices Board in the chilly market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Spices Board has undertaken a number of activities in Andhra Pradesh for improving export of chillies and turmeric, which include the following :—

— Quality improvement through regular training of growers, traders, officials of state NGOs and exporters.